United Nations A/ES-10/206–S/2002/1336

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
6 December 2002

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 6 December 2002 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to commit war crimes against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Even during the holiest days of the year, the Palestinian people have not been spared the wrath of the occupying Power, which seeks to ensure their constant suffering and loss. The latest crimes and atrocities by the occupying Power against the civilian population under its occupation have been committed during the Eid al-Fitr holiday, marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

In the pre-dawn hours (Palestine time) of today, more than 40 Israeli tanks and armoured vehicles, backed by helicopter gunships, raided the Breij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Launching an assault with tank shelling, machine-gun fire and helicopter-fired missiles, the Israeli occupying forces killed 10 Palestinians, including a woman and several members of the same families, and wounded at least 20 other people. Among those killed by the occupying forces were two UNRWA workers, Ahlam Riziq Kandil, a 31-year-old school teacher, and Osama Hassan Tahrawi, a 31-year-old school attendant, who was killed in the raid along with his brother. In addition to the brutal killings committed, this Israeli attack in such a densely crowded refugee camp caused extensive damage and destruction to shelters and property throughout the camp. Moreover, at least one home in particular was targeted for demolition and was blown up by the occupying forces during their raid.

The military assault against the Breij refugee camp comes on the heels of a series of consecutive attacks carried out by the Israeli occupying forces in the Gaza Strip, including the extrajudicial execution of a Palestinian man two days ago. On Wednesday, 4 December, the occupying forces launched a helicopter missile strike against a Palestinian Authority facility, killing Mustafa Sabah, 35 years old. The occupying forces indeed declared that Mr. Sabah was targeted for assassination. The occupying Power must be held accountable for this war crime and for all other war crimes and atrocities committed against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

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Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable for all of the cold-blooded killings of Palestinian men, women and children committed by the occupying forces. It must be held accountable for the countless extrajudicial executions perpetrated. It must be held accountable for the wanton destruction wrought by the occupying forces throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It must be held accountable for the thousands of Palestinians imprisoned, detained and tortured. Israel, the occupying Power, cannot continue to commit war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian people with impunity. It cannot continue to carry out this bloody military campaign and continue to collectively punish an entire people with impunity. Israel must be held responsible for all of its illegal policies and practices and all serious violations and grave breaches of international law and international humanitarian law, and the perpetrators of these crimes must be brought to justice.

The international community must act urgently to address the crisis situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, after now more than 27 months of this brutal Israeli military campaign against the Palestinian people. The United Nations Security Council in particular, in upholding its duty for the maintenance of international peace and security, must take the necessary action to bring a halt to the ongoing Israeli crimes and violations being committed against the Palestinian people.

In follow-up to my previous 147 letters to you regarding the crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem dated from 29 September 2000 to 3 December 2002 (A/55/432-S/2000/921; A/55/437-S/2000/930; A/55/450-S/2000/957; A/55/466-S/2000/971; A/55/474-S/2000/984; A/55/490-S/2000/993; A/ES-10/39-S/2000/1015; A/ES-10/40-S/2000/1025; A/ES-10/42-S/2000/1068; A/ES-10/43-S/2000/1078; A/ES-10/44-S/2000/1093; A/ES-10/45-S/2000/1104; A/ES-10/46-S/2000/1107; A/ES-10/47-S/2000/1116; A/ES-10/48-S/2000/1129; A/ES-10/49-S/2000/1154; A/ES-10/50-S/2000/1173; A/ES-10/51-S/2000/1185; A/ES-10/52-S/2000/1206; A/ES-10/53-S/2000/1247; A/ES-10/54-S/2001/7; A/ES-10/55-S/2001/33; A/ES-10/56-S/2001/50; A/ES-10/57-S/2001/101; A/ES-10/58-S/2001/131; A/ES-10/59-S/2001/156; A/ES-10/60-S/2001/175; A/ES-10/61-S/2001/189; A/ES-10/64-S/2001/209; A/ES-10/65-S/2001/226; A/ES-10/66-S/2001/239; A/ES-10/67-S/2001/255; A/ES-10/68-S/2001/284; A/ES-10/69-S/2001/295; A/ES-10/70-S/2001/304; A/ES-10/71-S/2001/314; A/ES-10/72-S/2001/332; A/ES-10/75-S/2001/352; A/ES-10/76-S/2001/372; A/ES-10/79-S/2001/418; A/ES-10/80-S/2001/432; A/ES-10/81-S/2001/447; A/ES-10/82-S/2001/463; A/ES-10/83-S/2001/471; A/ES-10/84-S/2001/479; A/ES-10/85-S/2001/486; A/ES-10/86-S/2001/496; A/ES-10/87-S/2001/504; A/ES-10/88-S/2001/508; A/ES-10/89-S/2001/544; A/ES-10/90-S/2001/586; A/ES-10/91-S/2001/605; A/ES-10/92-S/2001/629; A/ES-10/93-S/2001/657; A/ES-10/94-S/2001/669; A/ES-10/95-S/2001/686; A/ES-10/96-S/2001/697; A/ES-10/97-S/2001/708; A/ES-10/98-S/2001/717; A/ES-10/99-S/2001/742; A/ES-10/100-S/2001/754; A/ES-10/101-S/2001/783; A/ES-10/102-S/2001/785; A/ES-10/103-S/2001/798; A/ES-10/104-S/2001/812; A/ES-10/105-S/2001/814; A/ES-10/107-S/2001/821; A/ES-10/108-S/2001/826; A/ES-10/111-S/2001/880; A/ES-10/112-S/2001/918; A/ES-10/114-S/2001/928; A/ES-10/115-S/2001/932; A/ES-10/116-S/2001/941; A/ES-10/117-S/2001/971; A/ES-10/118-S/2001/989; A/ES-10/119-S/2001/991; A/ES-10/121-S/2001/1007; A/ES-10/122-S/2001/1024; A/ES-10/123-S/2001/1036; A/ES-10/124-S/2001/1084; A/ES-10/125-S/2001/1092; A/ES-10/126-S/2001/1118; A/ES-10/128-

S/2001/1149; A/ES-10/129-S/2001/1166; A/ES-10/133-S/2001/1239; A/ES-10/134-S/2001/1261; A/ES-10/136-S/2002/18; A/ES-10/137-S/2002/39; A/ES-10/138-S/2002/48; A/ES-10/139-S/2002/58; A/ES-10/140-S/2002/89; A/ES-10/141-S/2002/95; A/ES-10/142-S/2002/102; A/ES-10/143-S/2002/121; A/ES-10/144-S/2002/142; A/ES-10/145-S/2002/146; A/ES-10/146-S/2002/165; A/ES-10/147-S/2002/175; A/ES-10/148-S/2002/182; A/ES-10/149-S/2002/186; A/ES-10/150-S/2002/214; A/ES-10/151-S/2002/223; A/ES-10/152-S/2002/232; A/ES-10/154-S/2002/242; A/ES-10/155-S/2002/248; A/ES-10/156-S/2002/245; A/ES-10/157-S/2002/253; A/ES-10/158-S/2002/258; A/ES-10/159-S/2002/281; A/ES-10/160-S/2002/307; A/ES-10/161-S/2002/319; A/ES-10/162-S/2002/330; A/ES-10/163-S/2002/340; A/ES-10/164-S/2002/353; A/ES-10/165-S/2002/361; A/ES-10/166-S/2002/370; A/ES-10/167-S/2002/433; A/ES-10/168-S/2002/474; A/ES-10/169-S/2002/495; A/ES-10/173-S/2002/536; A/ES-10/174-S/2002/555; A/ES-10/175-S/2002/610; A/ES-10/176-S/2002/617; A/ES-10/177-S/2002/641; A/ES-10/178-S/2002/650; A/ES-10/179-S/2002/654; A/ES-10/180-S/2002/686; A/ES-10/181-S/2002/697; A/ES-10/182-S/2002/699; A/ES-10/183-S/2002/717; A/ES-10/184-S/2002/738; A/ES-10/185-S/2002/827; A/ES-10/190-S/2002/891; A/ES-10/192-S/2002/976; A/ES-10/193-S/2002/983; A/ES-10/194-S/2002/1052; A/ES-10/195-S/2002/1066; A/ES-10/196-S/2002/1083; A/ES-10/197-S/2002/1094; A/ES-10/198-S/2002/1104; A/ES-10/199-S/2002/1114; A/ES-10/200-S/2002/1144; A/ES-10/201-S/2002/1166; A/ES-10/202-S/2002/1244; A/ES-10/203-S/2002/1270; A/ES-10/204-S/2002/1298 and A/ES-10/205-S/2002/1319), I regret to inform you that, since my last letter to you, at least 14 Palestinians, including children, have been killed by Israeli occupying forces. This raises the total number of Palestinian martyrs killed since 28 September 2000 to 1,979. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 6 December 2002 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem* (Tuesday, 3 December 2002, through Friday, 6 December 2002)

Tuesday, 3 December 2002

Fatma Mohamed Eissa Sarahneh (95 years old)

Wednesday, 4 December 2002

1. Samy Kazem Shawer
2. Ahmed Dawood Surour
3. Mustafa Ahmed Sabah

Friday, 5 December 2002

1. Abdel Munem Mohamed Al Bahr
2. Ahlam Rizq Kandil
3. Mohamed Abdel Hamid Al Owe'ni
4. Imad Abdel Hamid Al Owe'ni
5. Raed Yehia Ramadan
6. Tareq Yehia Ramadan
7. Marwan Hasan Al Tahrawy (16 years old)
8. Osama Hasan Al Tahrawy
9. Hazem Jameel Abu Abdou
10. Ramy Omar Al A'lem

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 1,979.